

What is claimed is:

1. An environmental curtain system for at least partially obstructing a passage defined by lateral margins, the system comprising a curtain-holding apparatus to be fixed adjacent to an upper margin of the passage for suspending a plurality of flexible transparent strips of the curtain, each strip having an upper end fixed to the curtain-holding apparatus and a lower end adjacent to a lower margin of the passage, the curtain system further comprising a margin highlighter positioned adjacent to one of the lateral or upper margins, the margin highlighter including a luminescent or fluorescent agent in sufficient concentration to provide a visible light emission in the event of lighting failure.
2. The environmental curtain system of claim 1, wherein the luminescent or fluorescent agent in the margin highlighter has a color in the range of about 500 to 650 nm.
3. The environmental curtain system of claim 1, wherein the margin highlighter comprises the material forming the curtain-holding apparatus.
4. The environmental curtain system of claim 1, wherein the margin highlighter comprises a plurality of elements extending downward from the curtain-holding apparatus by less than about 30 cm to highlight the passage upper margin.
5. The environmental curtain system of claim 4, wherein the margin highlighter comprises a plurality of discs fixed adjacent an upper end of the plurality of transparent strips.
6. The environmental curtain system of claim 4, wherein the margin highlighter comprises a plurality of vertically elongated bars fixed adjacent an upper end of the plurality of transparent strips.
7. The environmental curtain system of claim 4, wherein the margin highlighter comprises a horizontally extending bar fixed adjacent an upper end of the plurality of transparent strips.

8. The environmental curtain system of claim 1, wherein the margin highlighter comprises a plurality of elements containing the luminescent or fluorescent agent, the elements being secured to one of the laterally outermost strips of the curtain system, the plurality of elements being positioned relative to each other so as to maintain sufficient visibility through the strip to observe any occurrence of movement.
9. The environmental curtain system of claim 8, wherein the elements are arranged as a geometric pattern on an otherwise transparent strip of the curtain system.
10. The environmental curtain system of claim 8, wherein the elements are co-extruded together on an otherwise transparent strip of the curtain system.
11. A margin highlighter for use with an environmental strip curtain to delineate a margin of a passage comprising a curtain-holding apparatus including a luminescent or fluorescent agent in sufficient concentration to provide a visible light emission in the event of lighting failure.
12. The margin highlighter claim 11, further comprising a curtain strip suspended from the curtain-holding apparatus, the curtain strip including a plurality of elements containing the luminescent or fluorescent agent, the elements being secured to one of the laterally outermost strips of the curtain system, the plurality of elements being positioned relative to each other so as to maintain sufficient visibility through the strip to observe any occurrence of movement.
13. The margin highlighter of claim 12, wherein the elements are arranged as a geometric pattern on an otherwise transparent curtain strip.
14. The margin highlighter of claim 12, wherein the elements are co-extruded together on an otherwise transparent curtain strip.
15. A margin highlighter for use with an environmental strip curtain to delineate an upper margin of a passage comprising an additional structure fixed to a curtain-holding apparatus, the additional structure including a

luminescent or fluorescent agent in sufficient concentration to provide a visible light emission in the event of lighting failure.

16. The margin highlighter claim 15, wherein the additional structure comprises a plurality of discs fixed to the curtain-holding apparatus.

17. The margin highlighter claim 15, wherein the additional structure comprises a plurality of vertically elongated bars fixed to the curtain-holding apparatus.

18. The margin highlighter claim 15, wherein the additional structure comprises a horizontally extending bar fixed to the curtain-holding apparatus.

19. An environmental curtain system for at least partially obstructing a passage defined by lateral margins, the system comprising a curtain-holding apparatus to be fixed adjacent to an upper margin of the passage including a plurality of outwardly extending pegs suspending flexible transparent strips of the curtain, each strip having an upper end coupled to at least two of the outwardly extending pegs and a lower end adjacent to a lower margin of the passage, a retaining structure having a back surface to retain the flexible transparent strips in coupled relation to the pegs, and a buffer for preventing direct interaction between the flexible transparent strips and a back surface of a retaining structure.

20. The environmental curtain system of claim 19 wherein the buffer comprises a plurality of discrete elements, each element coupled to a single peg.

21. The environmental curtain system of claim 19 wherein the buffer comprises a laterally extending element coupled to the pegs holding a plurality of the flexible transparent strips.

22. The environmental curtain system of claims 20 or 21 wherein the buffer includes a luminescent or fluorescent agent in sufficient concentration to provide a visible light emission in the event of lighting failure.